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## Natural Death Cited in Report In McNell Case

### Autopsy on Exhumation in Case Tied to C.I.A.

No evidence of foul play was found in an autopsy performed on a Queens man whose two brothers made accusations that led to the resignation of an official of the Central Intelligence Agency, authorities said yesterday.

The body of the man, Dennis McNell, who died nearly three months ago, was exhumed Thursday after two days of courtroom pleading by his relatives to prevent the grave from being disturbed.

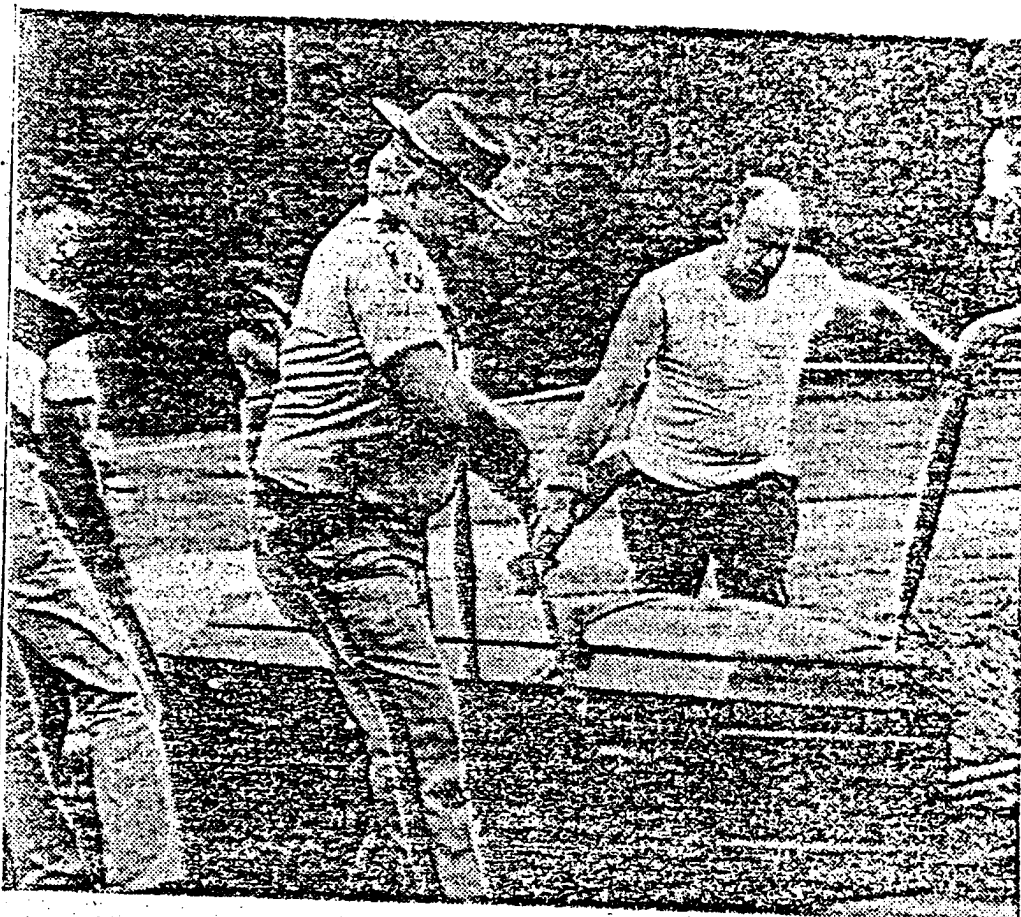
The Queens District Attorney and New York's Chief Medical Examiner began to suspect that Mr. McNell might have been murdered after receiving a report six weeks after his death that he had been beaten twice, possibly to discourage his brothers from making statements against Max Hugel, chief of covert operations for the C.I.A.

When Dr. Elliot M. Gross, the Chief Medical Examiner, reviewed the records of the death, he discovered that attending physicians had suspected that Mr. McNell had suffered a ruptured spleen, which most commonly results from an external blow. Dr. Gross then requested the exhumation.

John J. Santucci, the Queens District Attorney, said at a news conference yesterday that the autopsy carried out by Dr. Gross in Augusta, Me., on Thursday had found no evidence of a ruptured spleen.

Dr. Gross, who was with Mr. Santucci, said Mr. McNell died of "shock and hemorrhage brought on by a liver condition."

Mr. Santucci said that some laboratory tests were still incomplete, but that "for all practical purposes" his investi-



Officials exhuming the body of Dennis McNell at Forest Hills Annex Cemetery in Bridgton, Me.

gation into Mr. McNell's death was closed.

Mr. Santucci said the "inquiry was begun for the purpose of getting at the truth," and, he added, "so that any doubts in this area could be resolved rather than left lingering."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation

is searching for Mr. McNell's brothers, Samuel and Thomas. They disappeared shortly after they accused Mr. Hugel of having given them illegal stock market information. More than \$3 million is also missing from a corporation that Samuel McNell founded and that had employed all three brothers.